



THE

KNIGHT

May-June 2003



VOLUME 25 No. 5. Issue #136. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR.

LITHUANIAN MINT PREPARES TO MINT EUROS

From *Kauno Diena* (Kaunas' Day), March 5, 2003. Translated by Aleksandras Radžius.

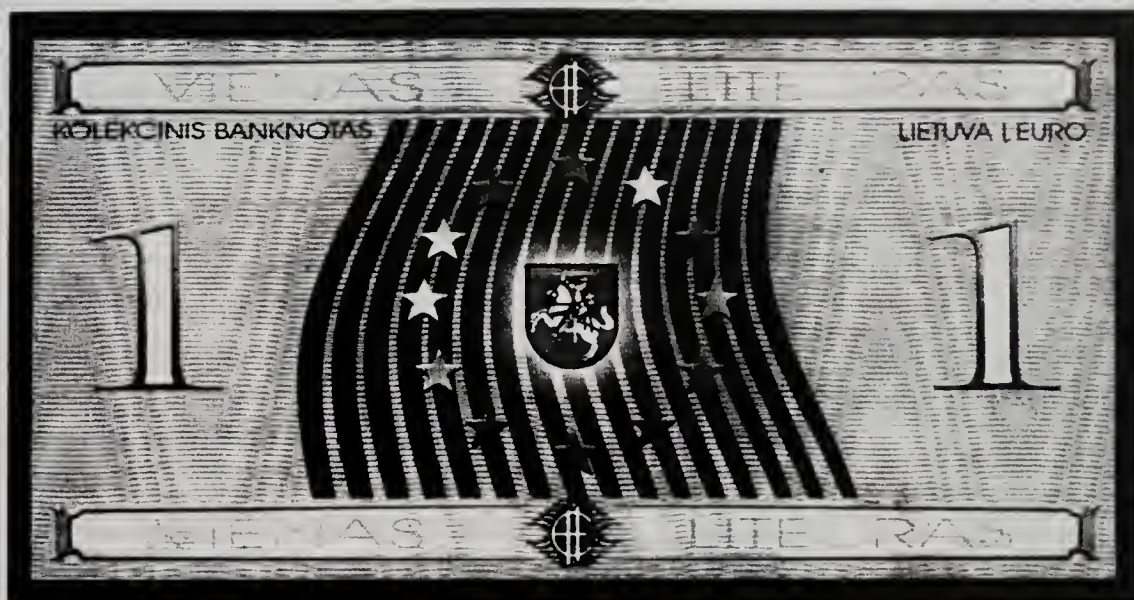
ELTA. The only mint in the Baltic countries, the Mint of Lithuania, is preparing to mint Euro coins. This news item was confirmed by the Director of the Cashier's Department, Arūnas Dulkys, who said that the timetable for minting in Vilnius will depend on the results of the European Union membership referendum and whether our country joins the EU. The coins will have a uniquely Lithuanian design on one side.

According to A. Dulkys, the process of minting Euros at the Mint of Lithuania will have to be started 2-3 years before our country converts to the common European currency.

In January, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Lithuania, Reinoldijus Šarkinas stated that he didn't see any difficulties which would prevent Lithuania on the day it joins the European Union from joining the candidates to the Euro zone's recommended second currency mechanism (ERM-2) and after two years, at the latest, in early 2007, to begin using the Euro instead of the litas.

"If the Euro is to be introduced in Lithuania at that time, our mint should begin production, at the latest, in 2005. For that to happen, great technical and organizational work must be done as well as obtain

(Continued on page 9...)



ABOVE: This fantasy Lithuanian 1 Euro note "Vienas Liteuras" points to Lithuania's move towards the European Union monetary system.

**LNA MEETING SATURDAY,
AUGUST 2, 1p.m. at ANA
CONVENTION IN BALTIMORE!!**



Our Lithuanian Numismatic Association will hold a general public meeting on Saturday, August 2 at 1:00 p.m. at American Numismatic Association Convention being held at the Baltimore Convention Center in downtown Baltimore, Maryland. We have tentatively been scheduled to meet in room 304 [NOTE: PLEASE CHECK ANA PROGRAM FOR ANY CHANGES].

This will be an excellent opportunity to meet the founders and directors of the LNA, and our fellow members and friends who want to learn more about Lithuanian numismatics. We are planning on a hour and a half meeting which will feature talks/presentations by such notables as: Alex Radzius, Robert Douchis, Hank Gaidis, and Vince Alones.

Our members and the numismatic community especially are welcome to attend our meeting! If you can't stay the whole time and have to attend other meetings that hour, it's OK to pop in and out. We'll be happy to see you.

(Continued on page 5...)

THE UNISSUED 1,000 LITŲ BANKNOTE

By Mantas Dubauskas
Lietuvos Rytas, April 7, 2003
Translated by Alex Radzius

Aging in Bank Safes. The largest denomination Lithuanian currency until the introduction of the euro will be the 500 litų note. The promised 1,000 litų note will never be in the wallets of the nation's people.

Initially their introduction was hindered by their poor quality of manufacture; later it was the plans to introduce the euro. The notes printed more than a decade ago are still sitting in the vaults of the Banks of Lithuania.

When the first national currency was to be printed in 1991, the directors of the Bank of Lithuania decided that the nation needed 500 and 1,000 litų denomination banknotes. However, the printed notes were not of acceptable quality, thus it was decided not to issue the large denomination note.

Later it was decided that Lithuania did not need 1,000 litų notes. The 500 litų notes for a while were not issued, and the newly printed notes were issued only at the end of 2000. In the meanwhile, arbitration litigation was initiated with regard to the poor quality of the first notes and it continued for a number of years.

Former officials missed the mark. "The 1,000 litų banknotes will not be issued. It is too late for them to show themselves. We have calculations which show that there is no need for this denomination. Also, with the imminent introduction of the Euro, it would not be appropriate to issue new banknotes. It is possible that if unforeseen circumstances should arise with regard to joining the Euro zone or if the living standard should suddenly rise, we would reconsider the 1,000 denomination. However, currently the 500 litų denomination is very adequate," said Bronius Degutis, Assistant to the Director of the Department of Disbursements.



PICTURED ABOVE: The unissued 1991 KM-52 1,000 Litų banknote.

According to this official, the people who in 1991 decided to print the 1,000 litų banknotes no longer work at the Bank of Lithuania, thus it is difficult to say what the reasons were behind the decision.

"Possibly they were influenced by the pre-War tradition when a 1,000 litų banknote was in circulation. Perhaps they lacked experience," speculated B. Degutis. "Now calculations are more accurate as to which denominations the nation needs." Based upon the current situation, the nation will never need a 1,000 litų denomination banknote.

Lithuania has decided to join the Euro zone and the conditions for joining it seem to be attainable. Having joined the European Union, Lithuania intends to introduce the second currency exchange mechanism (Exchange Rate Mechanism-ERM II). But it will take two years to enter the Euro zone.

During the trial period, the Lithuanian budget deficit will not be able to top 3% of the Gross National Product (GNP). The projected Lithuanian budget deficit for this year is 2.4% of the GNP. The national debt must not be over 60% of the GNP. Currently Lithuania's national debt is about 26% of the GNP. Our country already meets other criteria for joining the Euro zone.

Arbitration Litigation is Coming to an end. The first litas notes after the restoration of independence were printed by the the U.S. Banknote Corporation. As early as 1990 it was awarded the exclusive right to print Lithuanian currency. The notes printed by this company were supposedly unacceptable. Initially however, the Bank of Lithuania was found to be liable in the international case. The U.S. Banknote Corporation brought suit against the Bank of Lithuania because it announced a competition for bids to print litai notes, ignoring the exclusive rights of the U.S. company to print Lithuanian Currency.

In 1997 the U.S. Banknote Corporation lost the case and lost its exclusive rights, and the Bank of Lithuania brought suit against the company for poor quality banknotes. At this point in time only the arbitration litigation is completed and a peace treaty has been signed with the company. Reinoldas Šarkinas [Chairman of the Bank of Lithuania] would not divulge what was obtained from the U.S. Banknote Corporation, but did say that the suit ended favorably for our country.

(Continued on page 10...)

WELCOME TO LITHUANIAN NUMISMATICS!

3.

We'd like to welcome our new readers and attenders of the American Numismatic Association Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. Our newsletter is called "The Knight," and is published by the Lithuanian Numismatic Association, a group of collectors of Lithuanian and related coins, banknotes, tokens, medals, and military orders & decorations.

We are featuring some basic information here in order to help you better understand our hobby specialty. There are a lot of things a person can collect in our field, as Lithuanian numismatics goes way, way back to when the first coins were minted in the late 14th century. Even before the coins, silver bars were cast and used as money. In ancient times, Lithuania's national gem, amber was even used in commerce. During the Medieval era, Lithuania minted a fine assortment of coins which are highly collectible today.

The 20th century brought money to Lithuania issued by occupiers (Russia, Germany, Poland). Most notable are the German-issued "Ost" notes issued in 1916 and 1918 that have the Baltic languages on them. After Lithuania regained its independence, their own national monetary system was instituted in 1922. Lithuanian coins and banknotes were issued and circulated until the first Soviet occupation in 1940-41. Even after the War, Lithuanian Displaced Persons in the West issued their own camp money in DP camps.

The rise of "Reform" movement in Lithuania in the 1980s resulted in the declaration of the restoration of independence in 1990, followed by complete independence. Lithuania has been producing its own coins and banknotes again for over 10 years now. Lithuania's Mint in the capital city of Vilnius was re-established, and produces coins for circulation, as well as beautiful commemorative coins featuring intricate designs and various themes.

Lithuania's monetary unit is called the *LITAS*, a term that originated in 1922 from the combination of the name of the country. LIT-huania, and the Lithuanian *-as* ending. Lithuanian coins were minted bearing dates of 1925, 1936, and 1936. There are 14 coins needed to make a complete "set" of the regular pre-War Lithuanian coins.

Before World War II, the litas was based upon a specific gold content which amounted to about U.S. 10¢ in the 1920s, and 16¢ in the late 1930s. When Lithuanian independence was achieved again in the early 1990s, Lithuania reintroduced the Litas in 1993 at a fixed rate based upon the U.S. dollar at a ratio of 4 to \$1.00, that is, the Litas was worth U.S. 25¢.

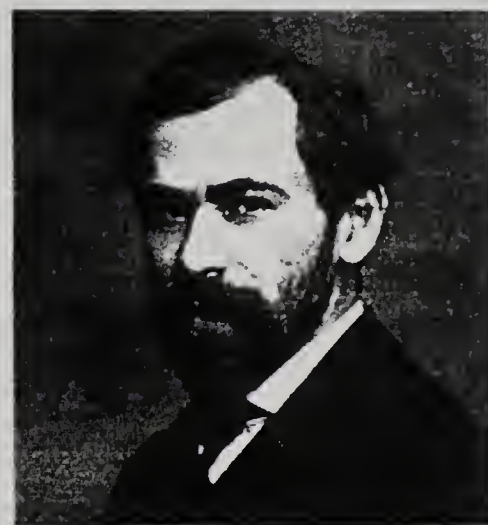
Beginning on February 2, 2002, Lithuania switched its backing from the U.S. dollar, to the European Euro dollar at the following ratio: 3.4528 litai equals 1 Euro. Lithuania currently has plans to join the European Union and to adopt the Euro in the next few years (read our feature story about that on page 1 of this issue).

In the meantime, Lithuanian coins and banknotes are still being produced and circulated by the Bank of Lithuania. You can order these directly from the Bank. For more information, go to their website at:

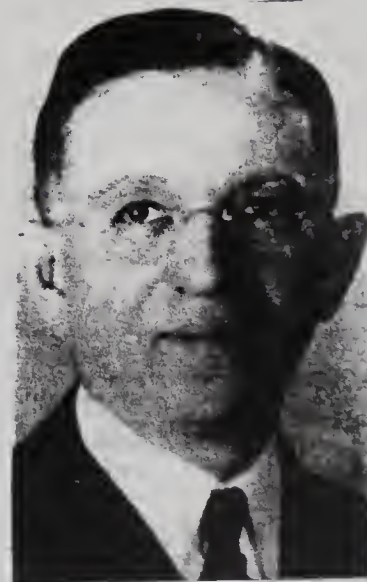


LITHUANIA TODAY

LITHUANIA IS LOCATED ON THE EASTERN SHORES OF THE BALTIC SEA. THE CAPITAL CITY IS VILNIUS.



VICTOR DAVID BRENNER (1871-1924), THE DESIGNER OF OUR U.S. LINCOLN CENT, WAS BORN AND RAISED IN ŠIAULIAI, LITHUANIA!



THE LEGENDARY NUMISMATIC PROMOTOR AND ANA MEMBER B. MAX MEHL (1884-1957) CAME TO THE U.S. FROM LITHUANIA IN 1895.

(Continued Next Page...)

www.lbank.lt, or write: Bank of Lithuania, 6 Gedimino Ave., 2001 Vilnius, Lithuania.

When you collect or look at Lithuanian money, you'll notice a few emblems that keep showing themselves over and over again. We are illustrating these on the right. The main Lithuanian emblem is called **VYTIS** (pronounced "VEE-tis"), meaning "the Knight." That's where we get the name for our newsletter, because "the Knight" is found on most all Lithuanian coins. Anyway, this depicts a rider on a horse charging to the left. The rider is holding a shield with a double-barred cross in his left hand and a sword in his right. This emblem evolved from archaic horse and rider emblems dating back to the 14th century. A "classic" Vytis design was used before World War II and on the first 1991-dated coins and banknotes. An embellished contemporary version made its appearance in 1993 and is used on Lithuanian coins and banknotes produced today.

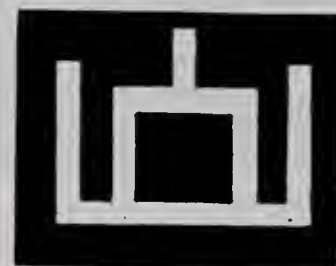
The Columns of Gedminas is a series of lines representing the gate of the castle in the capital city of Vilnius. Gediminas was a Lithuanian Grand Duke (whom we would call a King today) who founded the capital city in the year 1323. This emblem is secondary to the Vytis, but is often associated with sovereignty and has appeared on many Lithuanian items.

The Double-Barred Cross on the shield is held in the hand of "the Knight." Its origin is historically credited to Grand Duke Jogaila, who married Poland's Queen Jadwiga. The emblem supposedly signified the Christianity of the two countries, and appeared on coins minted during Jogaila's reign. It later became part of the Vytis emblem.

The Vytautas' Emblem. This appears on some banknotes issued in the 1920s, and 1930. Lithuania's greatest ruler was Vytautas the Great who ruled 1392-1430. He issued coins during his reign with a spearhead and cross on one side, and the Columns of Gedminas on the other. Some coins were found that looked like Vytautas had stamped the letter "V" (for Vytautas) next to those images. It turns out that the "V" was actually a portion of the "Columns of Gediminas" emblem that had transferred itself over to the other side when being hammered on the thin planchets. The "V" looked nice however and plausible at the time. So a Lithuanian designer concocted the "Vytautas emblem" in the early 20th century. It was used in celebrations throughout Lithuania in the 1920s and especially to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of Vytautas in 1930.

One place to learn more about Lithuanian numismatics of course is through our Lithuanian Numismatic Association. We are headquartered right here in Baltimore where there is an active Lithuanian community. Our newsletter, *The Knight*, is published 5 times a year. We invite you to become a member of our club by filling out the membership application attached to this issue and send it along with your check/money order. Our E-mail address is: Lithnumis@hotmail.com.

VYTIS

COLUMNS of
GEDIMINASDOUBLE-
BARRED
CROSSVYTAUTAS'
EMBLEM

The contemporary Vytis
found on Lithuanian
coins today.

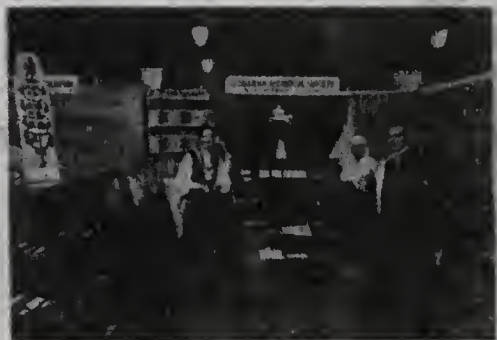
HOBBIES

The Magazine for Collectors

Volume 37

JANUARY, 1933

Number 11



The exhibit of the Lithuanian Historical Society at the recent Hobby Show. Dr. Račkus, curator, estimated that 2,000 Lithuanians viewed this and other exhibits at the show. Left to right: Miss Valera Valkanskas in Lithuanian maiden's national costume; Mrs. Vika Insoda in Lithuanian matron costume; Dr. A. M. Račkus, curator.

15c

1933 HOBBY MAGAZINE FEATURES LITHUANIAN COLLECTOR ON COVER 5.

Recently on the internet auction site E-Bay there was sold a copy of the January, 1933 (Volume 37, No. 11) issue "HOBBIES." The cover featured a photograph taken at "the recent Hobby Show," depicting the noted Lithuanian



numismatist, Dr. Aleksandras M. Račkus and two Lithuanian women.

The text below the photo states, "The exhibit of the Lithuanian Historical Society at the recent Hobby Show. Dr. Račkus, curator, estimated that 2,000 Lithuanians viewed this and other exhibits at the show. Left to right: Miss Valera Valkanskas in Lithuanian maiden's costume; Mrs. Vika Insoda in Lithuanian matron costume; Dr. Al. M. Račkus, curator."

Dr. Račkus later went on to become the head of the Historical Section at the Vytautas the Great National Museum in Kaunas, Lithuania from 1936 to 1938. Račkus was an active member of the American Numismatic Association and his picture can be seen in group photographs at ANA Conventions beginning in the 1920s.

LNA MEETING IN BALTIMORE AT ANA CONVENTION

(Continued from page 1...)

Be sure and bring your Lithuanian-related numismatic items for "show and tell," and for sale/trade to our meeting. We will be distributing extra copies of **The Knight** at the convention, to inform/educate collectors about our wonderful hobby specialty.

Of special interest, LNA co-founder and editor of **The Knight**, Frank Passic, will be displaying his 6-case complete set of regular (KM #1-28) pre-World War II Lithuanian banknotes as part of the competitive exhibits section at the ANA convention the entire week. This is a seldom-seen collection, and took 20 years to assemble. Included will be the rare 1938 10-lity "PAVYZDYS" note, the "key" of any

Lithuanian banknote collection. Be sure and visit the exhibits section at the Convention to see this display!

Our ANA club representative at the event is our LNA Director, Alex Radžius. If you have any questions, please be sure to contact him at our **LNA E-Mail address: Lithnumis@hotmail.com.**

The ANA convention will be held from Wednesday July 30 through Sunday, August 3. For further information about the Convention, contact the ANA at: ana@money.org, or 818 N. Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

6. Similarities between early Lithuanian and French coins

by Aleksandras Radžius

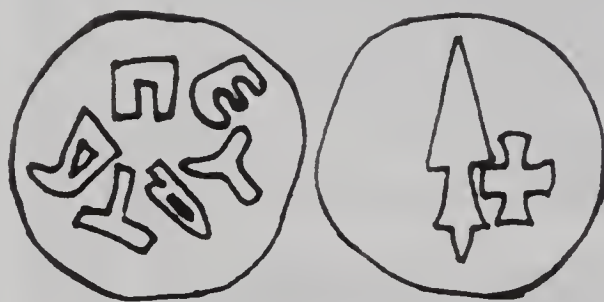
In researching the coins of Ferri III, Duke of Lorraine (France) (1251-1303) and those of others rulers of Lorraine, I was struck by similarities between elements of some early Lorrainian (French) coins and early Lithuanian coins.

One coin minted by Ferri III has on the reverse a dagger or sword and a Greek Cross very reminiscent of the reverse of our own PECHAT coins.

On another Lorrainian coin, that of Charles III, Duke of Lorraine (1545-1608), we see an Apostolic Cross differing from the Apostolic Cross used by our King Jogalia only in that it is displayed non-heraldically, that is, it is not enclosed in a shield. Further, another Lorrainian coin minted by Rene II, King of Lorraine (1473-1508), displays the Cross of Lorraine. These coins beg a side-by-side comparison. Personally, I hope never again to find the arms of King Jogalia referred to as the Cross of Lorraine. And should an illustration be found showing it as the charge on our Vytis, we should write it off as artistic licence, or, more accurately, as artistic error.

Our calling King Jogalia's personal arms the Cross of Vytis (Vyties Kryžius) sounds nationalistic, but hardly accurate. I would suggest we call it in Lithuanian circles by what it is, the Cross of Jogalia (Jogalios Kryžius). However, in foreign circles, I would suggest the generic term Apostolic Cross.

These similarities between coins of



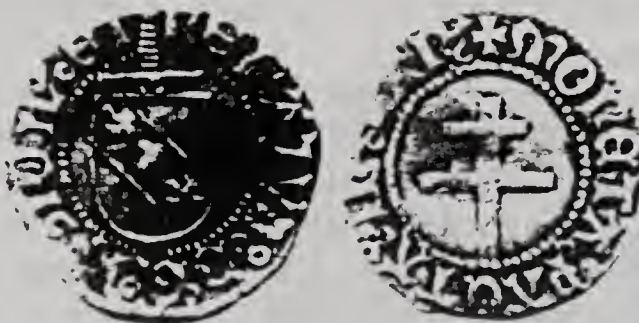
A Lithuanian PECHAT coin



Coin of Duke Ferri III (1251-1303)



Coin of Duke Charles III (1545-1608)



Coin of King Rene II (1473-1508)

medieval Lithuania and Lorraine may be more evidence that early Lithuanians were well aware of far away cultures. Other hints at this awareness are "Lithuanian" names like Traidenis, Darius, Nijole and Regina. Each finds its roots in the ancient cultures of southern

(Continued on page 9...)

Answers to our short quiz

Aleksandras Radžius

7.

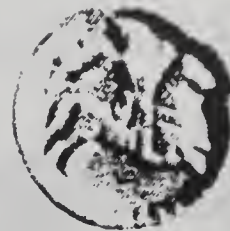
In the January-February issue of The Knight, Vol. 25, No. 3. Issue #134, we presented to our readers four medieval coins with an equestrian figure and asked if they thought any of them were Lithuanian.

None of our membership thought (A) was Lithuanian, most picked either (B) or (C), some picked (D). Some responded that none of the coins were Lithuanian. And in every case, they stated that graphic appearance was reason for their pick, some feature or element of the equestrian figure did or did not look "Lithuanian" to them.

Well, here are the identities of the coins:



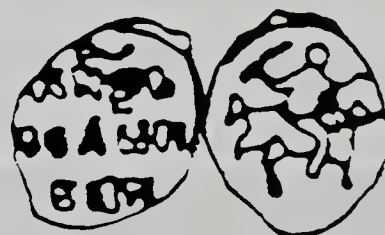
(A) is a coin of Ferri III, Duke of Lorraine (France) (1251-1303). The coin is sometimes called a denar and sometimes a small denar. It is readily available at coin shows and on the internet. The surviving specimens weigh between about 7 to 12 grains (0.44 - 0.75 grams) and are about 14 to 16 mm in diameter. Many varieties exist, but all have an equestrian figure on the obverse and an arm holding a sword, or the sword alone, on the reverse. Sometimes the duke's name FERRI or FERI appears on the obverse, sometimes the place of minting, NANCEI or NENCEI, is on the reverse. A fleur-de-lis, a Greek Cross or stars are sometimes on the obverse or on the reverse. The above illustration is from: John F. Lhotka Jr. Medieval Feudal French Coinage. Sanford I. Durst, Rockville Centre, N.Y., 1994, p. 50 and Plate 7, #37. ISBN #1-886720-12-6. Library of Congress No. 94-69421.



(B) is a bracteate of Bela III (1172-1196) or Bela IV (1235-1270), King of Hungary. It weighs about 4 grains (0.26 grams). The illustration is from: Lajos Huszar. Munzkatalog Ungarn von 1000 bis heute. Battenger, Munchen, 1979, p. 53 #195.



(C) is a bracteate of Otto, Duke of Polonia (Greater Poland) (1177-1194). The illustration is from: Marian Gumowski. Handbuch der polnisch numismatik. Akademische Druck-K., Verlagsanstalt, Graz, 1960, Tafel V #128.



(D) is a denga of John the Stern, Duke of Moscow (1530-1584). It weighs about 5 grains (about 0.31 grams) and is about 9 mm in diameter. The obverse reads KNIAS VELIKI IVAN. It also is readily available at coin shows and on the internet.

Surprised, any thoughts or feeling? Write to us and let us know. Personally, I think it just shows that we Lithuanians critically need to know that the equestrian figure is frequently found on coins and seals and that we must distinguish its heraldic and non-heraldic usages. Only then will we know when the equestrian figure can be called a 'Vytis' on a Lithuanian coin. More specifically, only then will we be able to determine when the Vytis became one of our national arms.



The Bank of Lithuania issued a new 2003-dated 50 litų banknote on Thursday, March 27. The new note was issued because the reserves of this denomination were low. The new note contains additional anti-color copier security features and other updated features from the 1998 issue. The new note was produced by the German printing firm of Giesecke & Devrient GmbH, which also produced the 1998-dated printing of the 50 litų denomination. The note bears the signature of the Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania, Reinoldijus Šarkinas. The older 1993 and 1998-dated notes will continue to circulate as legal tender in Lithuania.

The following information is obtained from the special brochure printed by the Bank of Lithuania promoting the new note.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTE

Size of the note: 135 mm × 65 mm

f r o n t

On the right side of the banknote is the portrait of Jonas Basanavičius (1851–1927), patriarch of Lithuania, scientist, politician, signatory of the Act of Independence of 16 February 1918. At the top is the inscription LIETUVOS BANKAS (BANK OF LITHUANIA), and at the bottom of the banknote PENKIASDEŠIMT LITŲ (FIFTY LITAS). To the left of the portrait is the year of issue 2003, the signature of the Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania and the inscription LIETUVOS BANKO VALDYBOS PIRMININKAS (CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE BANK OF LITHUANIA). The front of the banknote bears brown, light orange, green and pale blue colours.

b a c k

Vilnius Cathedral and Belfry, Monument to Grand Duke Gediminas of Lithuania, Gediminas Castle Tower and the Hill of Three Crosses. At the bottom of the banknote is the inscription PENKIASDEŠIMT LITŲ (FIFTY LITAS). The back of the banknote bears brown, light orange, green and pale blue colours.

The designer of the banknote is Giedrius Jonaitis

© Lietuvos bankas, 2003.

Išleido Lietuvos banko Ryšių su visuomene skyrius

Spausdino UAB „Baltijos kopija“, Kareivių g. 13b, LT-2012 Vilnius

Security features of the banknote 9.

1. Special paper of white colour characterised by a specific crackle, non-fluorescent under ultraviolet light.

2. Watermark – a multi-tonal portrait of Jonas Basanavičius visible when the note is held up to the light.

3. A windowed security thread with the repeated microtext 50 LTL, fluorescent under ultraviolet light in rainbow colours.

4. See-through feature, an image of a geometrical figure, front to back in perfect register.

5. Denomination numeral 50 repeated vertically twice to the right of the portrait becomes visible when the note is tilted towards the light.

6. Strip printed in iridescent inks to the right of the portrait visible when the note is tilted towards the light at an acute angle, with an emerging inscription LTL 50.

7. Recognition sign for the blind – two raised isosceles triangles.

8. Raised intaglio printing of the portrait, ornamental bands, inscriptions, denomination numerals, the drawings on the back of the note and the state emblem provides a tactile surface easily distinguished by touch.

9. Latent image (denomination numeral 50) on the right side of the top ornamental band visible when the note is tilted towards the light at an acute angle.

10. White lines in intaglio printed inscriptions LIETUVOS BANKAS, PENKIASDEŠIMT LITŲ and denomination numerals.

11. Repeated microtext LIETUVOS BANKAS: above the bottom ornamental band on the front and above the top ornamental band on the back and on the vertical edges of the fine line structure on the back.

12. Repeated microtext 50 LTL on the back, in a part of the image above the bottom ornamental band (in the pavement of the Cathedral Square).

13. Elements (front and back) intended for anti-colour copier protection: multi-coloured top and bottom edges of the banknote, security line structure, specific fine line patterns.

14. Invisible fibres embedded in the paper fluorescent under ultraviolet light in red,



1. Security features meant for the general public are indicated in green.

2. Security features for professional use (for cashiers and experts) are indicated in red, green and blue.

15. Orange outline of the numeral 50 fluorescent under ultraviolet light in orange.

16. Vertical serial number fluorescent under ultraviolet light in green.

17. Rectangle with four denomination numerals printed in invisible inks fluorescent under ultraviolet light in light green.

LITHUANIAN EUROS

(Continued from page 1...)

accreditation from the European Central Bank,” said A. Dulkys.

All mints must adhere to a uniform production and quality control standard so that Euros minted by different nations would not differ on technical parameters.

A. Dulkys stated that the Mint of Lithuania uses modern equipment and that even today it could produce Euros according to the current standard. Only the production capabilities would have to be expanded, since the mint would have to fill a large order of Euro coins. Understandably, if in the future the standard should change, new equipment would be required.

One side of the Euro coin is the same, the other is national, i.e. determined by the country of issue. Representatives of the Bank of Lithuania stated that designs for the Lithuanian side are not yet being prepared. It is planned that this work will begin after April, 2003, when Lithuania signs the treaty to enter the European Union and if the May referendum approves ratifying our joining that international association.

LITHUANIAN/FRENCH COIN SIMILARITIES (Con't from pg. 6...)

Europe and Asia Minor: Trajan (Roman Emperor), Darius (Persian Emperor), Nicole (French feminine name), Regina (“Queen” in Latin).

Thus, our early coins, when compared with period foreign coins, may be suggesting that early Lithuanians were culturally much more advanced than the anti-Lithuania disinformation, bias, slander, and propaganda of the Teutonic Order or that of Jan Dlugosz (1415-1480) would portray, and which, most unfortunately, continues to be mindlessly parroted even to this day.

10. WANT/FOR SALE ADS

WANTED: Any Lithuanian gold coins or medieval Lithuanian coins. Edward Baleisa, 200 Burhamthorpe Rd. E., Suite #606, Mississauga, Ontario, CANADA. L5A 4L4.

WANTED: Any Lithuanian gold coins or military items. Phil Winskunas, 6019 Powderhouse Circle, Sioux Falls, SD 57110. E-mail: Liet@splitrocktel.net.

WANTED: I am actively buying Lithuanian military and Boy Scout Orders, and Estonian Fireman medals. Send me a list of what you have for sale. Tony Tumonis, 4160 W. Melinda Lane, Tucson, AZ 85742-9106. E-mail: Lith57@aol.com.

FOR SALE: Various 20th century to-date Lithuanian coins and banknotes, and some Lithuanian numismatic reference books. E-mail me for my listing and prices. Frank Passic: albionfp@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE: *New Volume 2 of "For Merits to Lithuania" by Vilius Kavaliauskas (Lithuanian Orders & Decorations). 1,907 pictures, 712 pages, hard cover. E-mail: kavaliauskas@aiva.lt.*

LITH. PHILATELIC SOCIETY TO MEET OCTOBER 24-26 AT BALZEKAS MUSEUM

The Lithuanian Philatelic Society "LIETUVA" will have their exhibition and bourse at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60629 on Friday to Sunday October 24-26. There are always Lithuanian numismatic displays at this event, too. **For more information, contact their president, Jonas Variakojis at: variakojis@earthlink.net.**

BALZEKAS MUSEUM NEEDS LITHUANIAN OBITUARIES

The Genealogy department at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60629 is in need of obituaries of Lithuanians and their descendants for its massive genealogy department obituary files, no matter how old or new, including here in the U.S. **Please send them copies of your family obituaries & obits of other Lithuanians.** Include if possible the name, location & state of the paper, death date, place, etc., if not included in print. Are you researching your family history? The Museum's obituary files are a great place to start! Museum E-mail: editor@lithuanianmuseum.org

1,000 LITŲ BANKNOTE

(Continued from page 2...) The U.S. Company agreed to pay a compensation to the Bank of Lithuania over a couple of years, however, he did not specify the sum.

All litai notes will be destroyed. Once the Euro is introduced, good quality and poor quality litai notes will be destroyed. It is possible that the destruction of poor-quality 500 and 1,000 litų notes will begin before the Euro is introduced, since the lawsuits for these banknotes are now settled.

B. Degutis added that in truth, thought will have to be given about the technical aspects of the destruction. For the destruction of such a large quantity of notes, many resources will be required. Of the 500 and 1,000 litų banknotes, there are a couple million notes of each. A portion of the poor quality banknotes might be sold to Museums and collectors.

To take the national currency out of circulation will require the destruction of 50 tons of banknotes and 450 million coins, litai and cents, whose metal will be reprocessed. The banknotes will be recycled and only a portion will be retained for numismatic purposes.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Contact Bronislovas Degutis at the Bank of Lithuania, 6 Gedimino Ave, 2001 Vilnius, Lithuania. E-mail: isinkeviciene@lbank.lt. Encourage the Bank to sell those unissued 1991 500 and 1,000 litų, and unissued 1994 100 litų banknotes to collectors!!]

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This issue completes Volume 25. The next issue Volume 26 No. 1 will begin with the September-October issue. We encourage everyone to renew their memberships during the next few months. We are enclosing a membership renewal form for your convenience. Feel free to reproduce these to sign up new members. Have a great summer everyone!